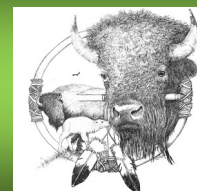




MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Tsa nii ta pii? - by Raymond Kingfisher

Ok! niiksokowaaksi,

Wow! We marched right through April and into May. I have been doing some research about education and how it affects Native American people. From my experience, I see western education does have some good and bad. The Indigenous people have always had ways of educating their youth, societies, clanships, and right of way ceremonies. Some of it had to do with environment, survival and knowledge. The knowledge being passed down from the older people to the younger people. Back in those days it was life or death.

It may have been something that some may have lost along the way, but it is still there. It has become something that is sought out. In today's world it does not necessarily have to do with hunting to eat to survive, but then again it does, if that makes sense. Without the knowledge to hunt the probability is unlikely of making a kill to eat and live comfortably. Just a thought, without some sort of knowledge hunting, for a job, and making a killing (wage) you will not be able to eat and live comfortably. As Indigenous people we had to learn from the natural beings around us. We watched and observed how they lived gaining something from listening, watching and using it for oneself.

I was approached by a male teacher the other day. He thanked me for being there in the school and for the interactions that I have with the Native American Students. I graciously thanked this man back as I have observed the work that the educators do on a daily basis. At the beginning of the year there was a meeting held with a student, mother and teachers. During that meeting I noticed that there was a lot of generalizing of "Native Americans." When it was my time to speak, I passed some knowledge about the Piikani. I spoke about how knowledge is passed through our beliefs, stories and that all tribes are different and have their own ways.

The teacher told me, "what you said in that meeting was eye opening for me!" I encouraged him to continue what you have learned and ask if you need anything else.

This is a story I wanted to share with you good folks. We have many great students, 6th-8th grade that have their ups and downs. For the most part they are there at school to gain knowledge. But, I ask that the parents of these young people to pass on what you know of your people. We live in the urban area, but we still come from great people. The old ones are proud of all of you, but I am sure they would also like to see you be proud of being Amskapi Piikani, Aaanih, Apsaalooke, Tsétsêhéstâhese, Só'taeo'o, Assiniboiné, Nakota, Chippewa Cree, Salish, the Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai or any of the tribe(s) that you come from. Have a great day!

Raymond Kingfisher

Native American Specialist

C.S. Porter, Meadow Hill, and Washington

728-2400 X1047 or rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us

Facebook: MCPS Indian Education

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Flathead Youth Initiative Conference



❖ **Open to all Native
High School
Students!**



“Honoring Our Roots” is a 2-day conference held at the Salish Kootenai College and is an overnight trip. Must be a registered client to participate.

**Monday, May 13th
& Tuesday, May
14th**

**58138 US-93,
Pablo, MT**

**Empowering
Native youth
through cultural
connection.**

Please contact Dana at dkingfisher@muihc.org for more information

Mission:
Help Native American students achieve academically, culturally, and socially to graduate and become successful lifelong learners.

2018-19 Staff Contact Information and School Assignments

Name	Title	Phone 728-2400	Email	Assigned Schools
Karen Allen	Executive Regional Director/Indian Ed. Dept. Supervisor	Ext. 1054	kallen@mcps.k12.mt.us	
Crystal WhiteShield	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1064		Big Sky High School, Hawthorne, Jeanette Rankin,
Lewis YellowRobe	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1049	lyellowrobe@mcps.k12.mt.us	Lewis & Clark, Paxson, Jefferson, Seeley Swan, Lowell
Melissa Hammett	Hellgate and Sentinel High School Native American Studies Teacher/Title VI Native American Specialist	Ext. 1028	mshammett@mcps.k12.mt.us	Hellgate High School and Sentinel High School (teacher)
Ray Kingfisher	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1047	rdkingfisher@mcps.k12.mt.us	CS Porter, Meadow Hill, & Washington Middle School
Vacant	Native American Specialist	Ext. 1068		
Glenda Weasel	Title VI/Native American Specialist/Data Support Staff	Ext. 1063	gfwasel@mcps.k12.mt.us	Willard Alternative High School
Matt Bell	NAS Teacher	Ext. 8634	mkbell@mcps.k12.mt.us	Big Sky HS, Willard AHS

2018-2019 Title VI

Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee

New membership as of November 2016

Name	Title	Email
Rebecca BearCub	President	rebecca_bearcub_goddard@yahoo.com
Crystal White Shield	Vice President	crystalwhiteshield@gmail.com
Matt Bell	Teacher Representative and Secretary	mattbell23@gmail.com
Lisa Coon	Parent Representative and Treasurer	coon.lisa@gmail.com
Moses Yellowrobe III	Parent Representative	moses.yellow.robe@gmail.com
Mariah Maxwell-Hawley	Parent Representative	mmaxwell-hawley@mcps.k12.mt.us
A. Vegas Longtree	Student Representative	
Student Representatives	vacant	

Nitsipohwatsin Numbers

ONE	NI-TOOK-SKA	1
TWO	NA-TOOK-KA	2
THREE	NI-OKS-SKA	3
FOUR	NI-SOO	4
FIVE	NI-SII-TOO	5
SIX	NOY	6
SEVEN	IH-KITS-SIH-KA	7
EIGHT	NA-NI-SOO	8
NINE	PIK-SOO	9
TEN	KI-POO	10

Chewing the Grass with Stacy by Stacy Thacker



Ya'at'eeh from the Great Navajo Nation!

I left Missoula a few weeks ago to move back to my reservation in hopes of working with Navajo students the way I've been able to work with the students in Missoula. I work with middle school students now but miss the little guys at the elementary. So far the journey has been fun and exciting.

Even though this is where I grew up, I still feel like Missoula is home and I miss seeing all the familiar faces and friends I've made while living in Montana. So say hi to each other for me and if you are working in one of my four elementary schools, say hi to the students too.

With April in the rear view and June coming up around the corner, remember that May holds a lot of fun events hosted by the Indian Education Department. Senior dinner is always a great time and this year the department has Salish author, Debra Magpie Earling and Missoula Urban Indian Health Center's Executive Director, D'Shane Barnett, as guest speakers. While this event is put on for seniors and their families, the department also puts on an event that everyone is welcomed to attend.

The department will also be hosting an End of the Year Celebration so keep an eye on the department's Facebook page for updates. If you aren't following them on Facebook then this is at the perfect opportunity to start.

The sun is shining here, the frybread and mutton sandwiches are endless and I definitely don't miss those spring snow storms but I do miss the awesome people who work hard everyday to bring an authentic cultural experience to Missoula Country Public Schools. Say hi to your Native American Specialist and maybe they'll bring you frybread :) Have a great and safe summer!

Thank You Stacy Thacker!!!

2018-19 EVENT CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Spooky Scary Halloween RD	Friday October 26, 2018	5:30-8:30 PM	Meadow Hill Middle School
SUPAMAN Performance	Monday October 29, 2018	5:30-8:30	Meadow Hill Middle School
Winter Gathering	December 14, 2018	5:30-8:30	CS Porter Middle School
Sunday Funday	January 6, 13, 20, 27 February 10, 24, 2019	1:00-3:00	CS Porter Middle School
Native Youth Powwow	Saturday, March 16, 2019	Grand Entry 12pm and 6pm	Sentinel High School
Graduating Senior Dinner	Friday, May 16, 2019	6:00-8:00pm	Double Tree Edgewater
End of the Year Gathering	Friday, May 31, 2019	3:00-6:00pm	Hawthorne Elementary

Data Guru— by Glenda Weasel

Good Day:

These past three months have been really busy for me. The Title VI Grant Part I is done and submitted. YAAHH. I have been working hard with the Willard students. Building new relationships with the students is always a plus. The start of this New Year has me doing home visits and welcoming new families that have entered our MCPS district.

Getting prepared for the MCPS Native Youth Powwow. I would like to welcome all Missoula community to come and participate in this wonderful event.

Always working hard on getting the monthly data out. Our highest count was in the month of October.

Class of 2019 *Native American*



May 16, 2019
Double Tree Edgewater
100 Madison Street
Missoula, MT 59802

The Senior Dinner

THURSDAY, May 16, 2019
6:00—8:00 PM



Welcome: Master of Ceremonies,
Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist
Office of Public Instruction



Prayer by Lynell Shepherd
Big Sky High School

Honor Song by Benji Headswift



Mr. Mark Thane
Superintendent of
Missoula County Public Schools

Rebecca Bearcub -Parent Advisory Committee

Debra Cecille Magpie Earling
Bitterroot Salish



D'Shane Barnett
Mandan / Arikara

Presentation of Seniors
High School Principals

Title VI Parent Committee Acknowledgement

GPA Presentation



Indian Education Department
Presentation and Closing Remarks

TITLE VI PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018-19 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

What do you feel are the most important needs of the Indian students in Missoula County Public Schools? Please indicate your thoughts by circling the number..

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Increase school readiness | 7. School dropout rate |
| 2. Integration of Indian specific content into curriculum | 8. Graduation rate |
| 3. Academic achievement | 9. Career readiness skills |
| 4. Knowledge of cultural identity and awareness | 10. College enrollment |
| 5. Enhance problem solving and cognitive skill development | 11. Substance abuse prevention |
| 6. School attendance rate | 12. Increase parent participation |

Other suggestions: _____

Rank the three most important needs:

Please check the category(ies) that describe you (check all that apply):

Native American ____ Yes ____ No ____

____ Parent/Guardian

____ Community Member

____ High School Student

____ Middle School Student

____ Elementary School Student

____ Missoula County Public Schools District Employee

What do you think is working well in the Missoula County Public Schools Indian Education Department?

Are there areas that you would like to see addressed by the school district or services that you would like to see offered by the Indian Education Department?

Please drop this by or mail to:

Missoula County Public Schools

Indian Ed. Department B2

215 S. 6th Street West

Missoula, MT 59801

The Teacher's Corner by Matt Bell



Aloha from snowy Montana!

Mr. Bell's Native American Studies Class is underway for the 2nd semester. We have started out this story telling season with a variety of stories from Blackfeet and Assiniboine texts. We be including stories from more tribes as the year continues but if any community member would like to share others or even come in to class to share, we would sure appreciate it!

We will also be taking a quick peek at the OPI Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Powwows. Again, community members are very welcome to come in and share!

Pinamaya and have a good day everybody!

Matt Bell

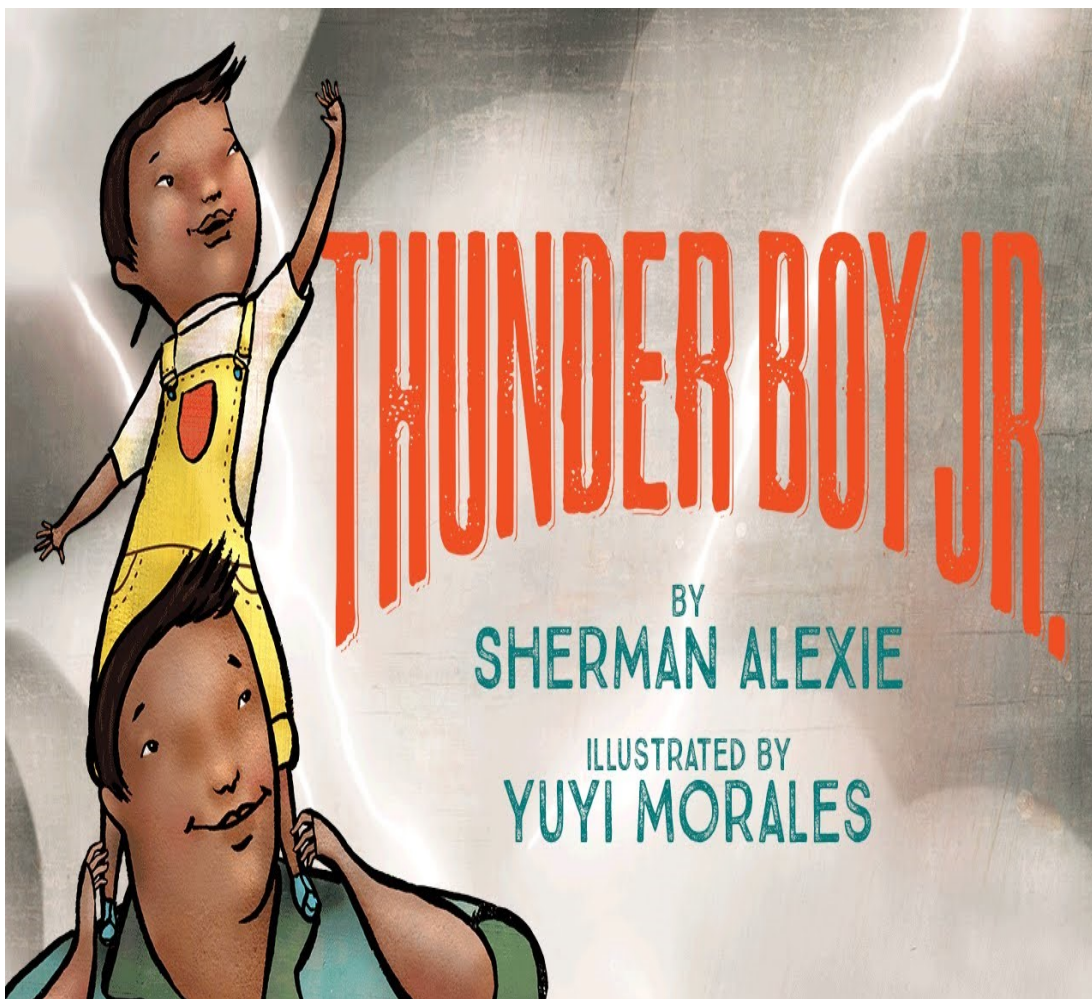


Lewis's Place by Lewis Yellowrobe

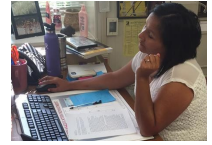
April 2019 was a good classroom month. At Lewis & Clark, Paxson, and Lowell schools, I read Thunderboy Jr. to all kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade classes. I explained the Colville background, showed Colville people, and explained cradleboards to the students. The students liked the story and the main character's imagination.

At Jefferson Preschool, I read How Rabbit Lost His Tail. The Warm Spring Tribes' story explains how the Rabbit's disobedience put him in danger and changed his appearance. The students colored and created crickets, rabbits, and coyotes: the characters in the story.

I look forward to working with the students the remainder of the school year as they complete their studies and prepare for the summer.



Smoke Signals by Melissa Hammett



Native American Studies Business Concepts of MT Tribes class Topics:

Sentinel HS & Hellgate HS

Start of a new semester with new group of students

Stereo types, misconceptions, & assumptions of Native Americans

Montana reservations & Tribes; Names Tribes call them selves

Boarding Schools

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival had a lot of Native American focused documentaries this year and I was lucky enough to screen a few of the films and have the directors and producers there to discuss the films with my students in my Hellgate and Sentinel classes. On Tuesday 2/19/2019 we screened Blood Memory with producer Elizabeth Day, Megan Whitney, & Director Drew Nicholas. Blood Memory focuses on Boarding Schools and adoptions. On Wednesday 2/20/2019 at Hellgate we screened two films. The Blackfeet Flood with director Torsten Kjellstrand. This film looked at the 1964 flood that killed 31 people when raging waters hit the Blackfeet Reservation. We also screened Harlem Rap at both Hellgate and Sentinel and were able to hear from student rapper Hunter about the video process and what his song was about. Browning Rising Voices also screened their film at Sentinel as well. This included several students from BHS & their advisors. Browning Rising Voices is about Browning High School's Poetry Club. Along for the ride was Native American director Ben-Alex Dupris. He is the director of Sweetheart Dancers. Although we didn't get the chance to screen his film, I was happy to have him in my classes supporting other directors.

The MCPS Indian Ed. Department presented Hellgate High School with a set of tribal flags during Diversity week assembly on February 19, 2019. Our department partnered with Missoula Urban Indian Health Center to bring in two dancers for the assembly as well.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hellgate	10:42-11:31	10:42-11:31	10:16-11:00	10:12-10:45	10:42-11:31
NAS-SHS 194			11:15-1:30		
Sentinel	2:10-3:00	2:10-3:00	1:30-3:00	NA	2:10-3:00

The Morning Star—Crystal WhiteShield

E-peve'eseeva! ("It is a good day" in Cheyenne)

Ematsé'omeve! It's springtime here in Missoula! The "Thunder Beings" have come back for the year!

I have my Read-Aloud programs up and running at Jeannette Rankin and Hawthorne Elementary Schools. Stories that been read to the K-2 students are:

Her Seven Brothers by Paul Goble

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

During lunch groups at the two school locations, I have been actively teaching students how to count from 1-10 in the Blackfeet and Crow Languages. This coming May, I will also be teaching students how to count in Cheyenne, Dakota, and Cree, as well as learning how to say words for animals. This has been a mission of mine to try and teach "The Basics" to the younger students in our district. So far, it's been pretty fun!

At Big Sky High School, myself and the support staff team have been finding ways to motivate students to finish out the year strong. With graduation and summer approaching, it has been challenging to keep students on track to graduate, attend school regularly, and to bring up grades. Please remember that the grades your students end with this year, will affect their eligibility for sports and activities for the fall, this includes 8th grade students going into High School. If your student is having a hard time in their classes, please let me know how I can help.

Also, at Big Sky High School, I have teamed up with WyAnn Northrup in the Special Education department. We are starting a monthly Read-Aloud program for her students. This month, WyAnn brought in the "Buffalo Box" which is loaned to the district, is a box made of buffalo rawhide with tools that tribes would use including a bone awl, sinew, hooves, a bladder, a hide scraper, and other items/tools that were useful. Along with the buffalo box, I chose to read the story, "The Return of the Buffaloes", by Paul Goble. I was able to teach a little history about why the buffalo almost went extinct, as well as teaching how to say "buffalo" in the Crow, Cheyenne, and Blackfeet Languages. On May 10th, I will be showing the students how to make frybread. Mmm!

High School Students had an opportunity to attend the UM NAS Native Youth Conference, the week of the Kyi Yo Celebration. Students got to hear some outstanding Native leaders, artists and keynote speakers. Another opportunity was presented to our department soon after. A few MCPS seniors got to take a trip to the Salish Kootenai College to explore the many different programs that are being offered there. It was very interesting to learn that they have a dual enrollment option for current juniors that will be seniors next year! Another conference is coming in May, so if your student is interested, please contact the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center for more information.

Néá'ěše. Thank you. Crystal White Shield (406)728-2400 x1064

cwhiteshield@mcps.k12.mt.us Nea'ese! AHO! ("Thank you" in Cheyenne and Kiowa)

Title VI Parent Advisory Committee—Rebecca BearCub

Rebecca BearCub

MCPS Title VI Chair 2018-2019

We are almost to the finish line! This school year has gone by fast. We have over 40 Native Seniors who will be graduating this year. The Title VI Parent Advisory Committee would like to thank everyone who has came out & supported us, & our fundraiser efforts. We raised over \$5,000 for the Native Senior Dinner & couldn't have done it without community support. This fall PAC will have four new faces, but the goals will be the same, & that is to support our students & families. Watch the MCPS Indian Ed Facebook page for events for the school year, reach out for questions or general help or information. For the past three years it has been an honor to serve on PAC, with the past two being Chair, & it's been an honor to be part of your children's education! Wishing everyone a safe & eventful summer!

Rebecca BearCub



Apsaalooke Baachimmuua

One	Hawate	1
Two	Duupe	2
Three	Daawiia	3
Four	Shoope	4
Five	Chiaxxo	5
Six	Akaawe	6
Seven	Sahpua	7
Eight	Duupahpe	8
Nine	Hawatahpe	9
Ten	Pilake	10